

DESCRIPTION

DISPLAY APPARATUS

5 [TECHNICAL FIELD]

The present invention relates to a display apparatus, particularly a display apparatus capable of performing pen input.

10 [BACKGROUND ART]

With development of information equipment, the needs for low-powder and thin display apparatuses have grown, so that extensive study and development have been made on display apparatus fitted to these needs.

15 Particularly, such a display apparatus is frequently used outdoors as a wearable PC (personal computer), an electronic notepad, etc., so that it is desirable that the display apparatus is of power and space saving type. For this reason, e.g., such
20 apparatuses in which a display function of a thin display such as a liquid crystal display and a coordinate input process are integrated and a user can directly input information (data) to be displayed on the display by a pressing operation with a pen or
25 finger have been commercialized.

In these equipments, the user operates the equipments by designating a position with the pen or

finger on the display apparatuses. For this reason, in order to detect the position, a transparent sheet for sensing the contact of the user's finger or the pen to detect its contact position is disposed on the display apparatuses in many cases.

As another method, Japanese Laid-Open Patent Application (JP-A) Hei 06-236231 has proposed such a scheme that an electromagnetic induction interaction is caused between a metal coil is incorporated in a pen and a metal coil provided to a detecting device disposed under a display apparatus, thereby to permit detection of a designated position.

Such a so-called an electromagnetic induction-type coordination position detection apparatus is used in combination with a display apparatuses to permit handwriting input with a special-purpose pen. Thus, it can be considered that a wearable PC of power and cost saving type or a paper like display in which a user can take notes is realized.

Figure 9 is a schematic view showing an embodiment of a conventional display apparatus having a pen input function. The display apparatus includes a display panel P_0 for displaying, e.g., an image or a character, an input pen 2 for inputting various pieces of information, and a sensor unit S_0 for sensing (detecting) a position of the input pen 2 according t

other electromagnetic induction scheme. In the input
pen 2, a resonance circuit is disposed, and in the
sensor unit S_0 , a sensor coil is disposed, thus
permitting detection of a coordinate position
5 according to the electromagnetic induction scheme. A_0
represents a plate-like member and is integrally
formed with the display panel P_0 in order to maintain
a strength of the display panel P_0 .

As one of display apparatuses of thin and
10 lightweight display type for use in the wearable PC,
an electrophoretic display apparatus has been proposed
in U.S. Patent No. 3,612,758.

This electrophoretic display apparatus
includes a pair of substrates oppositely disposed with
15 a spacing, an insulating liquid filled in the spacing
between the substrates, electrophoretic particles
dispersed in the insulating liquid, and a display
electrode disposed along each of the substrates at
each pixel.

20 The electrophoretic particles are electrically
charged positively or negatively, so that they are
adsorbed by either one of the display electrodes
(upper and lower electrodes) depending on a polarity
of a voltage applied to the display electrodes. For
25 example, by controlling a display state so as to be
placed in a state such that the electrophoretic
particles are adsorbed by the upper electrode and the

color thereof is observed and a state such that the electrophoretic particles are adsorbed by the lower electrode and the color of the insulating liquid is observed, it becomes possible to display various
5 images. Hereinafter, the display apparatus of such a type is referred to as a "vertical movement type display apparatus".

As another display apparatus, a display apparatus of a horizontal movement type as shown in
10 Figure 10(a) and 10(b) has been proposed in JP-A Hei 09-211499.

In the display apparatus of this type, different from the above described vertical movement type display apparatus such that the upper and lower
15 electrodes are disposed to sandwich the insulating liquid, electrodes are arranged on one of a pair of substrates. In an embodiment shown in Figures 10(a) and 10(b), a first electrode (common electrode) 44 is disposed between adjacent pixels and a second
20 electrode (pixel electrode) 43 is disposed over the entire pixel display area. The second electrode also functions as a reflection plate for reflecting incident light and is covered with an insulating film so as not to take electric charges away from
25 electrophoretic particles.

In the horizontal movement type display apparatus, the insulating liquid is transparent and as

shown in Figure 10(a), the second electrode 43 is covered with electrophoretic particles 47 to effect black display. Further, as shown in Figure 10(b), the colored electrophoretic particles are collected to the first electrode 44 located between the adjacent pixels to expose the second electrode 43, thus performing white display. As a result, by controlling a polarity of an applied voltage pixel by pixel, it is possible to display an image.

10 The electrophoretic display apparatus has a memory characteristic, different from most of liquid crystal apparatuses. The power of the display apparatus can be held in an off state when the display operation is kept, so that the display apparatus is
15 advantageous in the case where it is assumed that the display apparatus is used in various environments as in the wearable PC.

 When the electrophoretic display apparatus is used as the wearable PC or the paperlike display, it
20 is important that the display portion is flexible, i.e., resistive to bending to some extent. It is possible to provide the flexibility to the substrate by forming the substrate with a plastic film. However, in order to provide such a strength that it is capable
25 of resisting repetitive bending, it can be considered that a thin film of metal such as stainless steel is used as the substrate.

However, when the above described electromagnetic induction type coordination position detection apparatus is mounted to such a display apparatus using the metal substrate, the
5 electroconductive metal substrate is interposed between the position detection device and the pen, so that an electromagnetic field produced from the position detection device and the pen generates eddy-current in the metal substrate. For this reason,
10 there haws arisen such a problem that the electromagnetic field is attenuated to worsen a sensitivity for position detection.

Similarly as in a touch panel, it can be also considered that the position detection device is
15 constituted by a transparent member and is disposed at a front surface of the display apparatus. JP-A Hei 08-202487 has proposed an electromagnetic induction type position detection apparatus (digitizer) wherein a plurality of coils comprising transparent substrate
20 and transparent electrode are used in combination and dummy wiring is provided in order to obviate a change in transmittance of the position detection device is not caused to occur.

25 However, the position detection device is formed by combining the plurality of coils comprising transparent substrate and transparent electrode or

effecting the dummy wiring, so that it has a certain thickness. For this reason, an actual distance between the display surface and the pen contact surface becomes large, whereby parallax is caused. As a result, a user has such a sense that it is difficult to write or there is conformity, considerably different from the case where writing is performed in ordinary paper. Further, light passes through at least a thickness corresponding to two layers of transparent electrode, so that there also arises such a problem that a resultant light amount is decreased to approximately 90 % compared with the case where a sensor is not provided at the surface of the display apparatus it varies depending upon the thickness.

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[DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION]

The present invention has accomplished in order to solve the above described problems.

An object of the present invention is to provide a display apparatus capable of performing high-accuracy coordinate position detection by using a display including, as a substrate material, a thin metal plate which is not readily broken and is electroconductive.

25

Another object of the present invention is to provide such a display apparatus without providing inconformity to a user and impairing a luminance.

According to an aspect of the present invention, there is provided a display apparatus, comprising:

- a substrate comprising a metal layer,
- 5 a plurality of scanning signal lines and a plurality of data signal lines which intersect with each other and are disposed on the substrate,
- a display device which has a display element located at an intersecting position of the scanning and data signal lines and is driven by a voltage
10 signal supplied to the scanning and data signal lines,
- a plurality of coils disposed in parallel with each other on the substrate, and
- a circuit for detecting currents passing
15 through the plurality of coils by the action of electromagnetic induction of an electromagnetic wave locally generated at a surface of the display device to determine a generation position of the electromagnetic wave by a position of the coils
20 through which the currents pass.

According to another aspect of the present invention, there is provided a display apparatus, comprising:

- a substrate comprising a metal layer which has
25 an electromagnetic wave transmissive structure,
- a plurality of scanning signal lines and a plurality of data signal lines which are disposed on

the substrate,

a display device which is disposed on the substrate in a matrix and is driven by a voltage signal supplied to the scanning and data signal lines,

5 a plurality of coils disposed, opposite from the display device, in parallel with each other on the substrate, and

a circuit for detecting currents passing through the plurality of coils by the action of
10 electromagnetic induction of an electromagnetic wave locally generated at a surface of the display device to determine a generation position of the electromagnetic wave by a position of the coils through which the currents pass.

15 According to a further aspect of the present invention, there is provided an input apparatus, comprising:

a substrate comprising a metal layer,
a plurality of scanning signal lines and a
20 plurality of data signal lines which intersect with each other and are disposed on the substrate,

a display device which has a display surface located at an intersecting position of the scanning and data signal lines and is driven by a voltage
25 signal supplied to the scanning and data signal lines,

a pen which designates a position on the display surface and generates an electromagnetic wave

locally at the designated position at the same time,
a plurality of coils disposed in parallel with
each other on the substrate, and

a circuit for detecting a current passing
5 through the plurality of coils by the action of
electromagnetic induction of the electromagnetic wave
locally generated at the display surface with the pen
to determine a generation position of the
electromagnetic wave by a position of the coils
10 through which the current passes.

These and other objects, features and
advantages of the present invention will become more
apparent upon a consideration of the following
description of the preferred embodiments of the
15 present invention taken in conjunction with the
accompanying drawings.

[BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS]

Figures 1(a) and 1(b) are schematic sectional
20 views showing a display apparatus according to First
Embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 2 is a view showing a cross-section and
wiring state of a part of the display apparatus of
First Embodiment.

25 Figure 3 is a view showing a current detection
circuit.

Figure 4 is a schematic view showing a TFT

(thin film transistor) backplane.

Figure 5 is a schematic view showing a general structure of a display apparatus according to Second Embodiment of the present invention.

5 Figures 6, 7 and 8 are views showing other examples of the display apparatus of Second Embodiment.

Figure 9 is a schematic view showing an embodiment of a structure of a conventional display apparatus.

10 Figures 10(a) and 10(b) are sectional views showing an embodiment of a structure of an electrophoretic display device.

 Figures 11(a) and 11(b) are views for illustrating a relationship between an aperture ratio
15 of through hole and position detection limit when a TFT substrate is formed with a glass support.

[BEST MODE FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION]

 Figures 1(a) and 1(b) schematically show a
20 display apparatus according to First Embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 1(a) schematically illustrates a general structure of the display apparatus.

 A display apparatus 1 includes a display
25 portion 170, a driving portion 160 constituted by TFTs and their wiring for driving the display portion 170, and a sensor portion 150 for detecting a coordinate

position. These portions are laminated on a substrate 100. As the display portion 150, an electroconductive display apparatus having a memory characteristic is used, and the electroconductive display apparatus is
5 driven by the TFTs.

In Figure 1(a), a pointing member 2 such as a pen is a means for designating a position from above the display apparatus 1 and is used together with the display apparatus 1. The pen 2 designates the position
10 on the display surface and produces an electromagnetic wave at the same time. At that time, the sensor portion 150 detects a current passing through a sensor by an electromagnetic action and sends a current signal to a detection circuit 3. In the detection
15 circuit, the current signal is analyzed to determine a positional coordinate of the pen 2 on the display surface. The detection circuit 3 may be disposed outside the display apparatus 1 but may be mounted onto the substrate 100 to be integrated with the
20 display apparatus 1.

Generation of the electromagnetic wave from the pen 2 may be effected by such a pen that it per se has an electromagnetic wave generating device but may be performed by resonating a coil contained in a pen
25 by applying an AC voltage to a coil of the sensor portion.

Figure 1(b) is a sectional view enlarged at a

rectangle dotted-line portion indicated in Figure 1(a).

The substrate 100 is formed of a metal sheet to exhibit electroconductivity and is surface-coated with an insulating layer 101. On the substrate, the
5 electromagnetic induction type position detection sensor portion 150 and the driving portion 160 having a TFT matrix are laminated. The metal sheet has a flexibility to such an extent that the entire display apparatus is flexible and causes to crack or breakage
10 against repetitive flexion deformation.

The position detection sensor portion 150 includes the insulating layer 101, an X-axis direction sensor wiring portion 102 formed on the insulating layer 101, an insulating layer 103 formed on the
15 portion n102, a Y-axis direction sensor wiring portion 104 formed on the insulating layer 103, and an insulating layer 105 formed on the portion 104.

The driving portion 160 includes a gate wiring portion 106, a storage capacitor(Cs) wiring
20 portion 107, an insulating film 108, an amorphous semiconductor layer 109, an ohmic contact layer 110, a source electrode 111, a drain electrode 112, and an insulating layer 113.

The display portion 170 includes a pixel
25 electrode 114, a scattering layer 115, an insulating layer 116, a common electrode 117, a light-blocking layer, and a partition wall 119.

The respective layers have wiring patterns shown in Figure 2. A right-hand portion of Figure 2 shows a portion under the display portion 170 and a left-hand portion of Figure 2 shows wiring patterns at the respective layers.

As shown in Figure 2, the position detection sensor 150 has a lamination structure including the electromagnetic induction coil layer 120 for performing sensing in the X-axis direction and the electromagnetic induction coil layer 140 for performing sensing in the Y-axis direction. The X-axis sensing coil layer 120 includes a plurality of coils 102 each arranged in parallel with each other and extended in the Y-axis direction to form a loop. Each of the coils 102 is led from both ends of the loop to the outside of the coil layer 120. The coils 102 effect sensing in the X-axis direction. The number and density of the coils 102 are determined depending on an accuracy of positional coordinates to be subjected to the sensing.

When a position is designated by a pen or the like from above the display portion, an electromagnetic wave produced from the pen generates a current by electromagnetic induction on the coils 102. The generated current is detected by an external circuit, so that an X-axis coordinate of the position where the pen is placed is determined on the basis of

a position of a coil which generates the intersect electromagnetic induction current. In a similar manner, a Y-axis coordinate of the pen position is determined based on the electromagnetic induction current generated in the coil layer 140 in the Y-axis direction.

Figure 3 shows a structure of the detection circuit 3 shown in Figure 1 only at a detection portion in the X-axis direction.

The detection circuit 3 is provided to each of the X-axis direction sensor 120 and the Y-axis direction sensor 140 to determine (identify) the X coordinate and the Y coordinate of the pen position. Hereinbelow, only the X-axis direction sensor 120 will be described but similar description can be made with respect to the Y-axis direction sensor 140.

Referring to Figure 3, input terminals 301 are connected by a resistance 302, so that an induced current passing through the coil layer 120 is converted into a voltage value between both ends of the resistance 302. This voltage is amplified by an amplifier 303 and converted into digital form by an AD conversion circuit 304. The digitized voltage is sampled by all the coils at the same time by use of a timing signal 310 latched by a latch circuit 305, and inputted into a comparator 306. The comparator 306 compares the digital signals and based on the

resultant values, identifies a coil through which a maximum current passes, and outputs the number of the coil, i.e., a position coordination of the pen in the X-axis direction to an output terminal 311. The timing
5 signal 310 for determining the timing of sampling is supplied from an external control circuit (not shown).

In Figure 2, the gate wiring portion 106 and the source wiring portion 111 of the drive portion 160 are extended in the X-axis direction and the Y-axis
10 direction, respectively, to constitute scanning signal lines and data signal lines. At an intersection of the gate wiring portion 106 and the source wiring portion 111, a TFT is constituted by the insulating film 108, the amorphous semiconductor layer 109, and the ohmic
15 layer 110, and the drain electrode 112 of the TFT is electrically connected with the pixels electrode 114 through a contact hole a (shown in Figure 1(b)) provided in the insulating layer 113 disposed on the drain electrode 112.

20 Figure 4 shows a planar arrangement of a display panel 10 constituted by the above described substrate 100, sensor portion 150, drive portion 160, and display portion 170. Reference numerals indicated in Figure 4 are used for describing the same members
25 or means shown in Figure 2.

As shown in Figure 4, the display portion 150 (Figure 2) has a display surface by arranging the

pixels electrodes 114, as one (group) of the electrodes of the display device, in a matrix. The other electrode (group) of the display device is formed on an opposite substrate (not shown) or a side surface of a partition wall (not shown) located at a peripheral portion of the pixels, and a common potential is applied to all the pixel. Each of the pixels is constituted by an electrophoretic device including electrophoretic particles and a liquid for dispersing and holding the electrophoretic particles therein.

At the periphery of the display panel 10, a scanning line drive circuit 125 and a data line drive circuit 126 for supplying voltage signal to scanning (gate) signal lines g1, g2, g3, ... and data (source) signal lines S2, S2, S3, ..., respectively.

From these circuits, a TFT gate-on voltage of +20 V and a TFT gate-off voltage of -20 V are supplied to the scanning signal lines, and a TFT source line voltage of 0 - 15 V is supplied to the data signal lines. A common electrode potential is fixed at 7.5 V.

In this embodiment, the position detection sensor portion 150 is mounted on the substrate 100 formed with the metal sheet, so that when writing with the special-purpose pen 2 as the position designation means is performed from above the second substrate (opposite substrate), an electromagnetic field

produced locally at a point of the pen 2 affects the sensor coil portion 150 without being blocked. As a result, position detection with high reliability can be effected by use of the loop-shaped wiring portions
5 102 and 104.

In the above description, the display portion is described as the electrophoretic display device. However, the present invention is not limited thereto. It is also possible to use a reflection-type liquid
10 crystal display device.

Further, in Figures 1(a) and 1(b), an inverted staggered type TFT using amorphous silicon is employed but the TFT used in the present invention may also be those of other types including a staggered type, a
15 planar type, an inverted planar type, etc. Further, instead of the amorphous silicon TFT, it is also possible to employ a polysilicon TFT with laser annealing or a transfer technique using a single-crystal TFT.

20 Hereinbelow, Second Embodiment of the present invention will be described with reference to Figures 5 - 8.

A display apparatus used in this embodiment, similarly as in First Embodiment, displays various
25 pieces of information such as an image and character, and permits a coordinate detection according to the electromagnetic induction scheme.

Figure 5 shows a structure of a display apparatus 51 used in this embodiment.

Referring to Figure 5, a substrate has the following structure.

5 On an upper surface of the substrate 100, a drive layer (portion) 160 for driving a display portion and a display layer (portion) 170 including a display device are laminated. The drive portion 160 and the display portion 170 have the same structures
10 as those described in First Embodiment and shown in Figures 1(a) and 1(b). Specifically, on the substrate, the gate wiring portion, the source wiring portion, and the TFTs, are formed and thereon, a display device having electrodes connected to the TFTs is disposed.

15 On a lower surface, of the substrate 100, opposite from the upper surface on which the drive and display portions 160 and 170 are disposed, a position detection sensor layer (portion) 150 is disposed. The position detection sensor portion 150 has the same
20 structure as in First Embodiment shown in Figures 1(a), 1(b) and 2 except that the positional relationship between the substrate 100 and the position detection sensor portion 150 is inverted. The position detection sensor portion 150 has such a substrate that position
25 sensor coils in an X-axis direction and position sensor coils in a Y-axis direction perpendicularly, intersect with each other via an insulating layer and

are laminated on the substrate. These sensor coils may be formed at the lower surface of the substrate 100 or applied to the lower surface of the substrate 100 after being once formed on another substrate.

5 The sensor portion 150 is an electromagnetic induction type digitizer identical to that used in First Embodiment and has a plurality of sensor coils (looped coils).

 An input pen 2 has a resonance circuit and a
10 coordinate of a position of the input pen 2 is detected according to a known method by passing or not passing a current through the sensor coils at high speed.

 As described above, in this embodiment, the
15 position detection sensor portion 150 is disposed under the electroconductive substrate film, i.e., on an opposite side from the display portion. Further, the substrate 100 is provided with a means for obviating attenuation of an electromagnetic wave
20 generated from the pen placed on the display portion 170. As a result, it becomes possible to detect the electromagnetic wave by the sensor disposed on the opposite side of the substrate 100.

 The substrate 100 used in this embodiment
25 includes a metal layer which may be a metal plate or a thin sheet-like metal film when flexibility is required.

The means for obviating attenuation of the electromagnetic wave may be provided to the substrate 100 in any one of the following methods (1) - (3).

(1) A plurality of through holes are provided in
5 the metal layer.

(2) A layer of metal mesh sheet, into which metal fiber is woven in a mesh form, is embedded in a resin film.

(3) A wavy uneven metal layer is embedded in a
10 resin film.

Metal is resistive to plastic deformation, so that even when any of the methods (1) - (3) is employed, it is possible to perform high-accuracy coordinate detection without impairing the substrate
15 strength in a sense that the resultant substrate is resistive to repetitive deformation such as bending or folding.

A structural embodiment of the method (1) is shown in Figure 6.

20 A substrate 100 includes a thin electroconductive metal plate (electroconduction film) A1 and an insulating material 101. Through holes 4 are provided in the electroconductive (metal) film A1 at a pitch P. Further, the through holes 4 are filled with
25 the insulating material 101, and the entire (upper and lower) surfaces of the electroconductive film A1 is coated with the insulating material 101.

A display portion 170 is constituted by an electroconductive display device. On a TFT backplane of a drive portion 160, a pixel electrode 114 is disposed through an insulating layer 113 and is electrically connected with a drain electrode 112 through a contact hole a. Further, on the pixel electrode 114, a scattering layer 115 and an insulating layer 116 are laminated.

On the insulating layer 116, an insulating liquid 15 and charged electrophoretic particles 16 dispersed in the insulating liquid 15 and held by being surrounded by a transparent display-side substrate 11 and a partition wall 119. An area B defined by the partition wall 119 constitutes one pixel. Under the partition wall 119, a common electrode 117 having the same potential as those of adjacent pixels and a light-blocking layer 118 are disposed along the partition wall 119. Other reference numerals indicated in Figure 6 represent the same members or means as those shown in Figures 1(a) and 1(b).

The size of the through hole 4 may be smaller than that (width B) of one pixel and in a preferred embodiment, two or more through holes 4 are disposed at each pixel. More specifically, when the width B of one pixel is 80 μm , the pitch P of the through hole 4 may preferably be not more than approximately 40 μm .

By providing the through holes 4 in such a manner, it is possible to ensure flexibility of the information display device and prevent attenuation of magnetic flux in combination. As the electroconductive film A1, it is preferable that a metal plate which is not readily cracked and is rich in flexibility.

A structural embodiment of the above described method (2) is shown in Figure 7.

In Figure 7, a substrate 100 is formed with a mesh film A2 into which ultrafine fibers of stainless steel are woven and an insulating resin film 101 which coats the mesh film A2 from both (upper and lower) sides of thereof. As the mesh film, e.g., a film (trade name "SUSMIC", mfd. by Tokyo Rope Mfg. Co., Ltd.) may preferably be used.

A structural embodiment of the method (3) is shown in Figure 8.

In Figure 8, a substrate 100 is formed of an uneven electroconductive metal plate A3 and an insulating resin film 101 in which the metal plate A3 is embedded. The metal plate A3 may be prepared by subjecting a metal plate to embossing to bend the metal plate so as to have undulation. By providing the metal plate with such an unevenness, it is possible to enhance rigidity. As a result, the metal plate per se has a small thickness of about 10 μm , so that it is possible to prevent a lowering in sensitivity for

coordinate detection.

As the display portion 170, in the present invention, it is possible to employ a liquid crystal display device or an electrophoretic display device.

5 Such a display device may preferably be of a reflection type and also of an active matrix type using switching element such as TFT. In the case of the active matrix type display device, the driving portion 160 includes a scanning electrode, a data
10 electrode, a switching element, etc.

The above described metal layers A1, A2 and A3 are coated with the insulating layer 101 at both (upper and lower) surfaces thereof, thus ensuring wiring thereof with upper and lower portions and
15 electrical insulation from the switching element, etc.

According to this embodiment, the metal layers A1, A2 and A3 tolerate leakage of magnetic flux between the sensor portion 150 and the input pen 2, so that it is possible to prevent a lowering in
20 sensitivity for coordinate detection.

Hereinbelow, the present invention will be described more specifically based on Examples.

Example 1

In this example, the display apparatus
25 according to First Embodiment of the present invention is prepared in the following manner.

A substrate 100 is a thin electroconductive

SUS foil or plate. An insulating film 101 disposed on the substrate 100 is formed of an insulating material such as SiN or a resin material. As wiring (metal coils) 102 and 104, a wiring material of Al which exhibits a low electric resistivity is used but in the case where there is a subsequent step includes a production process performed at a temperature exceeds a melting temperature of Al, a metal material such as Cr, Ta or Al-Nd is used instead of Al. Such a metal material is vapor-deposited on the insulating film by sputtering and thereon, a photoresist is applied and subjected to selective exposure and development, followed by etching of the metal film to form a loop-like wiring portion. As a TFT 109, a thin film of an amorphous semiconductor is used.

More specifically, the display apparatus of First Embodiment of the present invention can be prepared through the following production steps.

(Step of forming position detection sensor portion)

(1) A 500 nm-thick SiN film 101 is formed on a 0.2 mm-thick SUS film by chemical vapor deposition (CVD).

(2) On the SiN film 101, a 300 nm-thick Al-Nd layer is formed by sputtering.

(3) By using a photomask, an X-axis sensing wiring portion 102 is formed, and thereon a 500 nm-thick SiN film 103 is formed.

(4) On the SiN film 103, a 300 nm-thick Al-Nd layer is formed by sputtering.

(5) By using a photomask, a Y-axis sensing wiring portion 104 is formed.

5 (6) On the wiring portion 104, a 2 μ m-thick insulating and smooth layer 105 of acrylic resin is coated by use of a spinner. Instead of the acrylic resin, it is possible to use another resin such as epoxy-based resin so long as a resultant film state is
10 not changed in subsequent steps (e.g., by film formation, curing temperature, etc.). Further, it is also possible to form an SiN film. In this case, however, it is difficult to realize a film thickness of not less than 1 μ m in CVD used when the SiN film
15 is formed, from the viewpoint of deposition time. In addition, a dielectric constant ϵ_r is about 4, so that when the film thickness is excessively small, there is a possibility such that parasitic capacitance with respect to, e.g., gate wiring is increased to
20 cause a driving problem. As a result, it is necessary to pay attention to designing of the SiN film.

(Step of forming drive portion (TFT backplane))

(7) On the acrylic resin layer 105, a 200 nm-thick Al-Nd layer is formed by sputtering, and TFT
25 lower electrodes such as a gate wiring portion 106 and a Cs wiring portion 107 are formed by use of a photomask. Incidentally, in this example, the

electrophoretic display apparatus needs a capacitance when a holding drive of TFT is performed. For this reason, the Cs wiring portion 107 is formed in the same layer as the gate wiring portion 106.

5 (8) As an interlayer insulating film and a semiconductor layer, a 250 nm-thick SiN film 108 and a 200 nm-thick a-Si (amorphous silicon) film 109 are formed by CVD.

 (9) As an ohmic contact layer, a 20 nm-thick a-Si
10 (n⁺) film 110 is formed by CVD.

 (10) On the ohmic contact layer 110, a 200 nm-thick Al-Nd layer is formed by sputtering.

 (11) By using a photomask, a source wiring portion 111 containing TFT portion, and a drain electrode 112
15 are formed through wet etching.

 Thereafter, the a-Si (n⁺) layer 110 at a TFT channel portion is removed through dry etching by use of the same resist pattern to form a 300 nm-thick SiN film 113.

20 (Step of forming display portion)

 (12) In the SiN film 113, a contact hole is formed as shown in Figure 1(b) by dry etching to expose a part of the drain electrode 112.

 (13) On the SiN film 113, a 200 nm-thick Al-Nd
25 layer is formed by sputtering.

 (14) By using a photomask, a pixel electrode 114 is formed through wet etching.

(15) Onto the pixel electrode 114, a 4 μm -thick acrylic resin layer containing TiO_2 is applied, thus forming a white scattering layer 115.

(16) On the scattering layer 115, a 1 μm -thick acrylic resin layer 116 is formed as an insulating film.

(17) On the insulating film 116, a 300 nm-thick Ti layer 117 and a 300 nm-thick photoresist layer containing carbon black are successively formed.

(18) On the photoresist layer 118, a 15 μm -thick photoresist is formed and subjected to development so as to leave a portion between adjacent pixels, thus forming a partition wall 119 between the adjacent pixels.

(19) By using the partition wall 119 formed of the thick photoresist, the Ti layer 117 and the carbon black containing photoresist layer 118 are subjected to etching to form a TFT backplane.

(20) Finally, a dispersion liquid in which black electrophoretic particles 121 of carbon black-containing polystyrene resin are dispersed in an insulating liquid 120 of a paraffin-based hydrocarbon solvent as a main component, is filled and fixed in a space defined by the partition wall 119 so that a transparent second (opposite) 122 is caused to contact the partition wall 119. The partition wall 119 and the second substrate 122 are fixed with an adhesive (not

shown).

Example 2

In this example, the display apparatus of
Second Embodiment of the present invention is prepared
5 in the following manner.

First, the structure of display apparatus will
be described with reference to Figure 6.

In this example, a 100 μm -thick SUS sheet A1
in which a multiplicity of through holes 4 are formed
10 with an opening width of 20 μm , is used. Further, as
an insulating liquid 15, it is possible to use a
liquid principally comprising a paraffin-based
hydrocarbon solvent. As charged electrophoretic
particles 16, it is possible to use black particles of
15 carbon black-containing polystyrene resin.

The SUS substrate A1 and the through holes 4
are coated and filled with an acrylic resin layer
(thickness: 2 μm) for electrical insulation and
smoothness. Further, it is also possible to use an SiN
20 epoxy-based resin film instead of the acrylic resin.
In the latter case, however, it is difficult to
realize a film thickness of not less than 1 μm in CVD
used when the SiN film is formed, from the viewpoint
of deposition time. In addition, a dielectric constant
25 er is about 4, so that when the film thickness is
excessively small, there is a possibility such that
parasitic capacitance with respect to, e.g., gate

wiring is increased to cause a driving problem. As a result, it is necessary to pay attention to designing of the SiN film.

The structures and materials of a drive
5 portion 160 and a display portion 170 are identical to those in Example 1.

Referring to Figure 6, on a substrate 100, a gate electrode 102 and a Cs electrode 107 are disposed. The Cs electrode 107 is used for constituting a
10 supplemental capacitor at a portion between the Cs electrode 107 and a pixel electrode 114.

On these electrodes 102 and 107, a TFT including a gate insulating film 108 of SiN film (250 nm), a semiconductor layer 109 of a-Si film (200 nm),
15 an ohmic contact layer 110 of a-Si (n^+) film (20 nm), a source electrode 111, and a drain electrode 112, is disposed.

A white scattering layer is formed of a 4 μm -thick acrylic resin containing TiO_2 . An insulating
20 film 116 is formed of a 1 μm -thick acrylic resin. A common electrode 117 is formed of a 300 nm-thick Ti layer, and a light blocking layer 118 is formed of a 300 nm-thick carbon black-containing photoresist.

Next, a manufacturing method of the display
25 apparatus in this example will be described.

In the SUS substrate A1, the multiplicity of through holes 4 are formed by etching. Onto both

surfaces of the SUS substrate Al, a coating liquid comprising the acrylic resin is applied by a spinner to form the insulating layer 101.

On the acrylic resin insulating layer 101
5 located on the upper surface of the SUS substrate Al, the Al-Nd layer is formed in a thickness of 200 nm by sputtering and subjected to exposure with, e.g., a photomask and etching to effect patterning, thus forming the gate electrode 102 and the Cs electrode
10 107. The gate insulating film 108 of SiN film and the semiconductor layer 109 of a-Si film are formed by CVD so as to cover the gate electrode 102 and the Cs electrode 107. The ohmic contact layer 110 of a-Si (n^+) film is formed by CVD so as to cover the gate
15 insulating film 108 and the semiconductor layer 109. On the surface of the ohmic contact layer 110, a 200 nm-thick Al layer is formed and subjected to wet etching to form the source electrode 111 and the drain electrode 112. By using the same resist pattern, the
20 a-Si (n^+) layer 110 at the TFT channel portion is removed through dry etching to form an SiN film 113. In the SiN film 113, a contact hole a indicated by a broken line in Figure 6 is formed by dry etching to expose a part of the drain electrode 112. A 200
25 nm-thick Al film is formed by sputtering so as to cover the exposed part and the a-Si (n^+) film 109 and then subjected to wet etching with a photomask to form

the pixel electrode 114.

On the pixel electrode 114, the white scattering formed and thereon, the 300 nm-thick Ti film, a 300 nm-thick photoresist film, and a 15 μm -thick photoresist film are formed. The 15 μm -thick photoresist film is subjected to development to leave only a boundary portion between adjacent pixels, thus forming the partition wall 119. The 300 nm-thick Ti film and the 300 nm-thick photoresist film are subjected to etching with use of the partition wall 119 to form the Ti layer 117 and the light-blocking layer 118.

Finally, the insulating liquid 15 and the charged electrophoretic particles 16 are filled at each pixel and sealed with a display-side substrate 11.

According to this example, it is possible to prevent a lowering in sensitivity for position detection of the input pen 2.

According to an experiment by the present inventors, a relationship shown in Figures 11(a) and 11(b) is established between an aperture ratio (%) of the through holes 4 and a detectable maximum distance L (mm) for the input pen, i.e., a position detection limit, with respect to the thickness of the substrate. From the results of Figure 11(b), it is possible to estimate an intensity of the electromagnetic wave passing through the through holes. As a result, it

becomes possible to optimally design the thickness and the aperture ratio of the SUS substrate A1.

[INDUSTRIAL APPLICABILITY]

5 As described hereinabove, according to the present invention, by using a display including, as a substrate material, a thin metal plate which is not readily cracked or broken and is flexible, it is possible to provide a display apparatus capable of
10 effecting high-accuracy coordinate position detection without giving a user to inconformity and impairing a luminance.

CLAIMS

1. A display apparatus, comprising:
 - 5 a substrate comprising a metal layer,
a plurality of scanning signal lines and a
plurality of data signal lines which intersect with
each other and are disposed on said substrate,
a display device which has a display element
10 located at an intersecting position of said scanning
and data signal lines and is driven by a voltage
signal supplied to said scanning and data signal lines,
a plurality of coils disposed in parallel with
each other on said substrate, and
15 a circuit for detecting currents passing
through said plurality of coils by the action of
electromagnetic induction of an electromagnetic wave
locally generated at a surface of the display device
to determine a generation position of the
20 electromagnetic wave by a position of said coils
through which the currents pass.

2. An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein
said substrate is a metal plate.

25

3. An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein
said substrate is a metal layer coated with an

insulating material.

4. An apparatus according to any one of Claims
1 - 3, wherein said plurality of coils are disposed
5 between said substrate and substrate display device.

5. An apparatus according to any one of Claims
1 - 4, wherein said plurality of coils are provided in
two layers which determine an X coordinate and a Y
10 coordinate, respectively, of the generation position
of the electromagnetic wave.

6. An apparatus according to any one of Claims
1 - 5, wherein said display device includes a pair of
15 electrodes supplied with a voltage by said scanning
and data signal lines, at least one of the electrodes
being disposed on said substrate, and a medium which
is disposed between the electrodes and contains
therein charged particles.

20

7. A display apparatus, comprising:
a substrate comprising a metal layer which has
an electromagnetic wave transmissive structure,
a plurality of scanning signal lines and a
25 plurality of data signal lines which are disposed on
said substrate,
a display device which is disposed on said

substrate in a matrix and is driven by a voltage signal supplied to said scanning and data signal lines,

a plurality of coils disposed, opposite from said display device, in parallel with each other on said substrate, and

a circuit for detecting currents passing through said plurality of coils by the action of electromagnetic induction of an electromagnetic wave locally generated at a surface of the display device to determine a generation position of the electromagnetic wave by a position of said coils through which the currents pass.

8. An apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein the metal layer is a metal sheet provided with a through-hole.

9. An apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein the metal layer is a sheet comprising metal fiber woven into mesh.

10. An apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein the metal layer is a metal sheet provided with an unevenness.

11. An input apparatus, comprising:
a substrate comprising a metal layer,

a plurality of scanning signal lines and a plurality of data signal lines which intersect with each other and are disposed on said substrate,

a display device which has a display surface
5 located at an intersecting position of said scanning and data signal lines and is driven by a voltage signal supplied to said scanning and data signal lines,

a pen which designates a position on the display surface and generates an electromagnetic wave
10 locally at the designated position at the same time,

a plurality of coils disposed in parallel with each other on said substrate, and

a circuit for detecting a current passing through said plurality of coils by the action of
15 electromagnetic induction of the electromagnetic wave locally generated at the display surface with the pen to determine a generation position of the electromagnetic wave by a position of said coils through which the current passes.

ABSTRACT

A display apparatus includes a substrate
5 having a metal layer, a plurality of scanning signal
lines and a plurality of data signal lines which
intersect with each other and are disposed on the
substrate, a display device which has a display
element located at an intersecting position of the
10 scanning and data signal lines and is driven by a
voltage signal supplied to the scanning and data
signal lines, a plurality of coils disposed in
parallel with each other on the substrate, and a
circuit for detecting currents passing through the
15 plurality of coils by the action of electromagnetic
induction of an electromagnetic wave locally generated
at a surface of the display device to determine a
generation position of the electromagnetic wave by a
position of the coils through which the currents pass.
20 The metal layer as a substrate material is a thin
electroconductive metal plate which is flexible and
not readily broken.

1



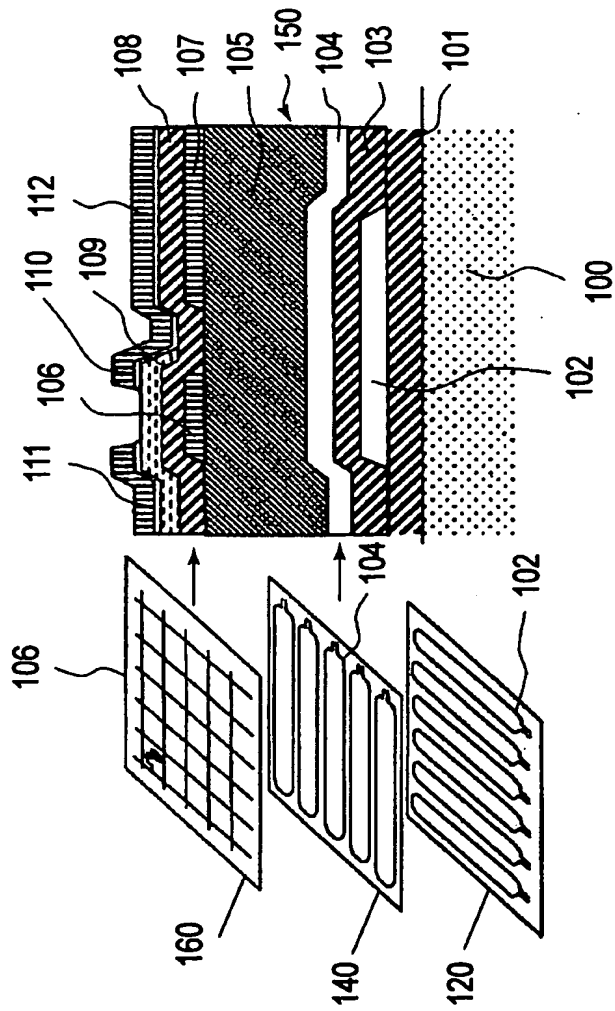


FIG. 2

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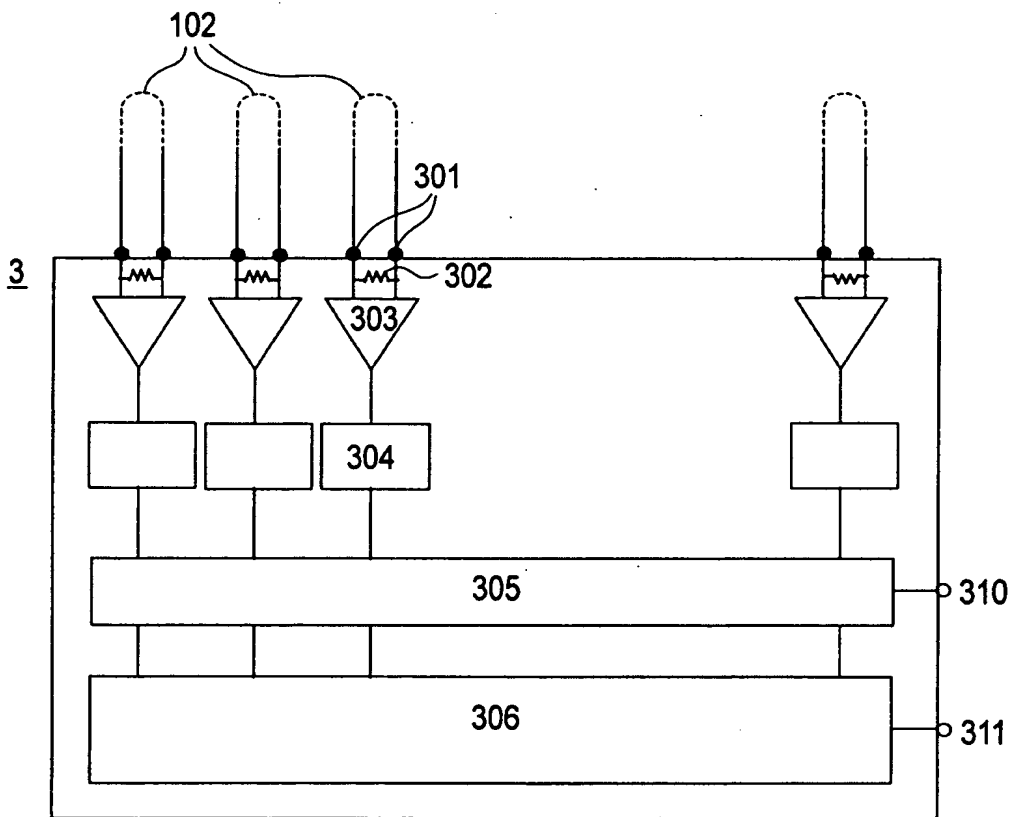


FIG.3

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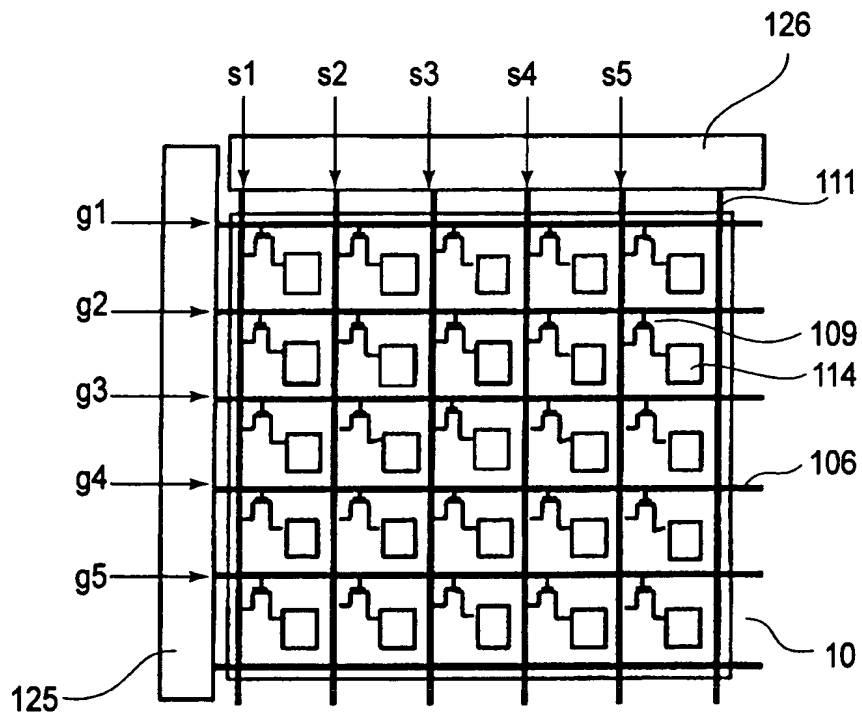


FIG.4

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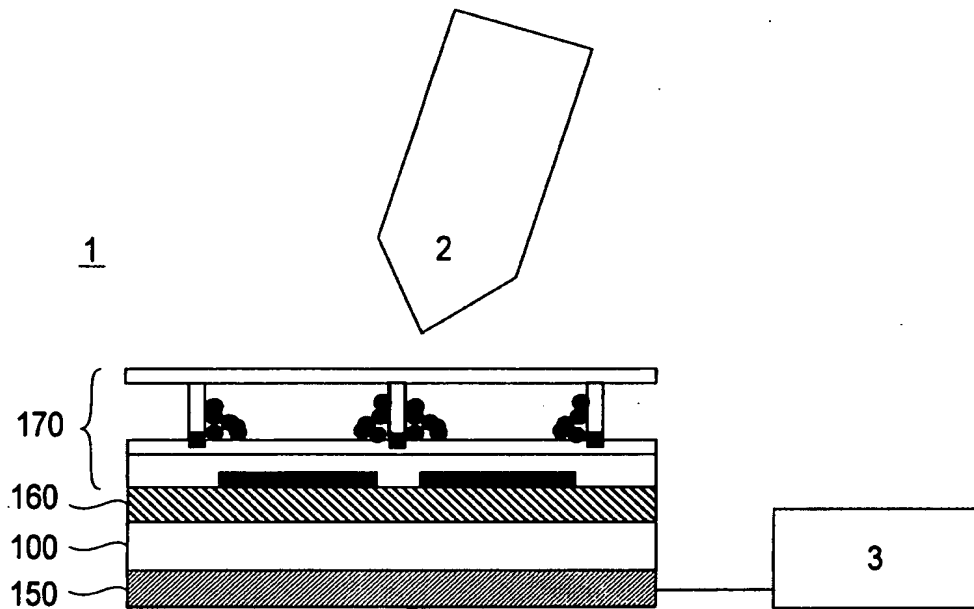


FIG.5



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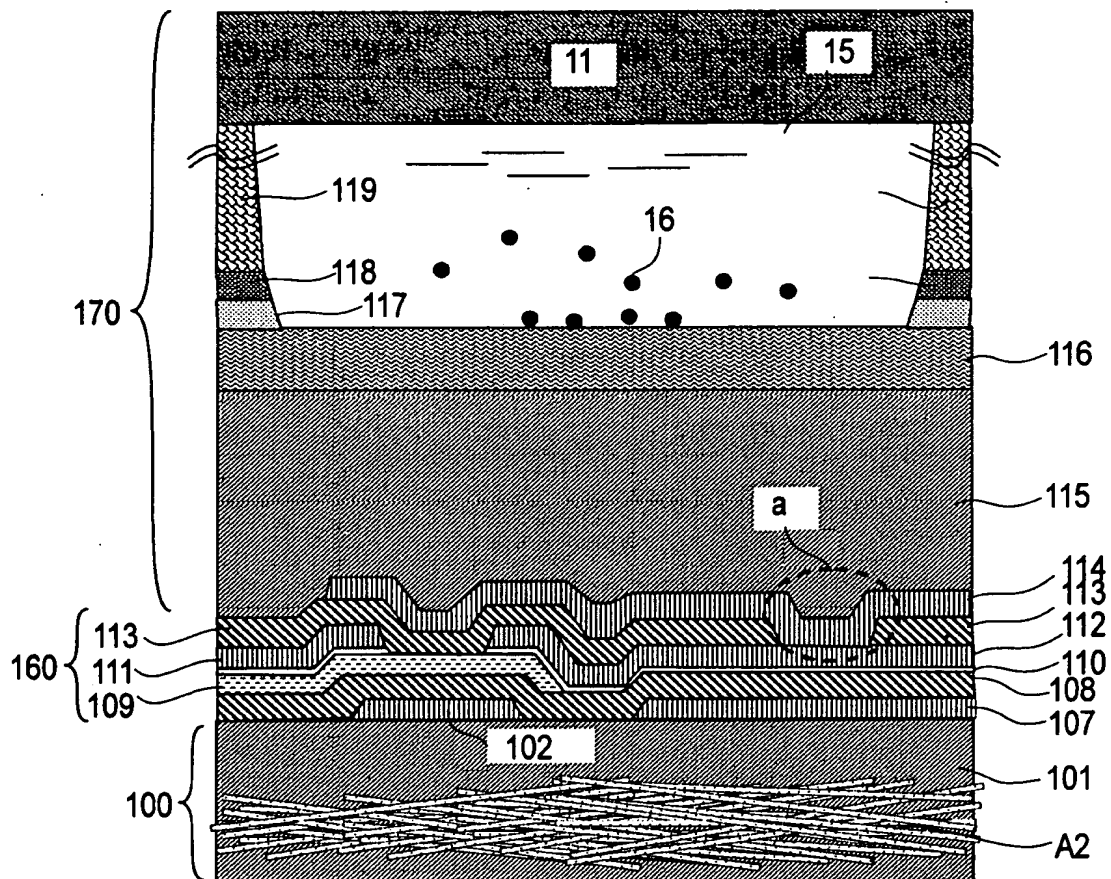
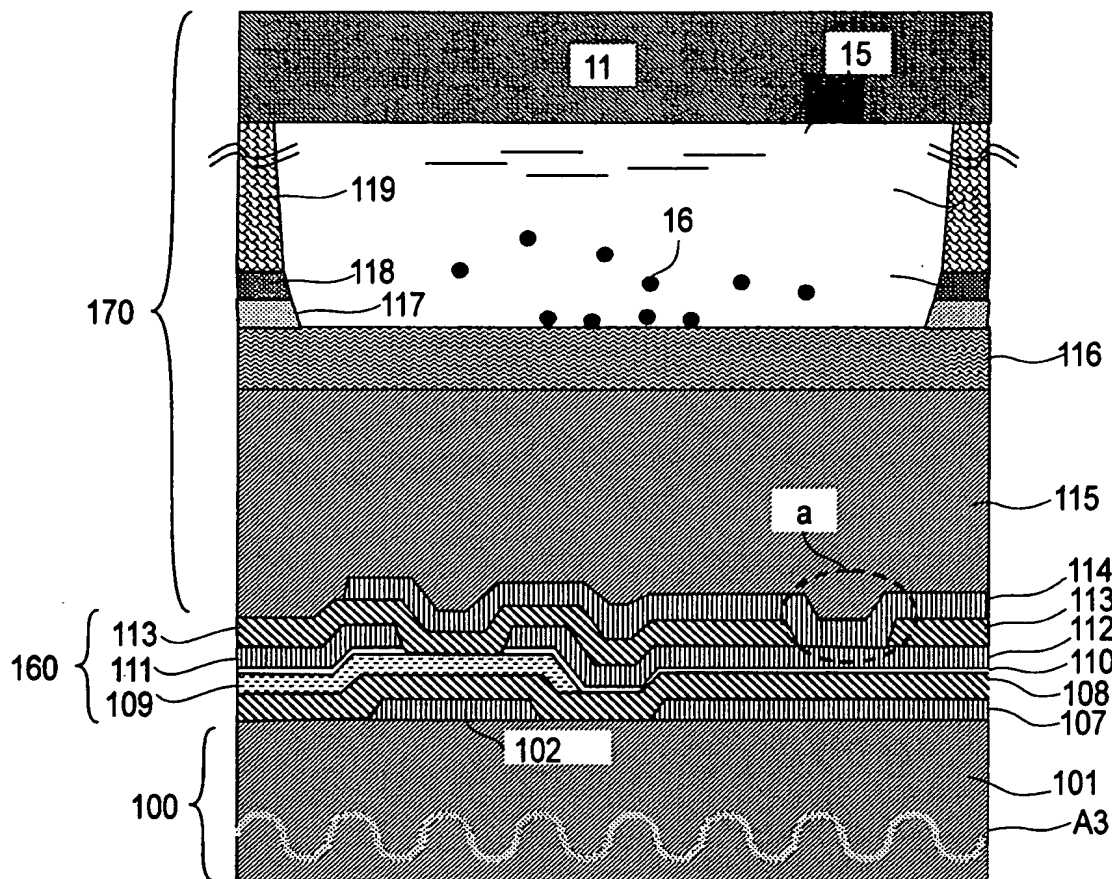


FIG. 7

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9/11

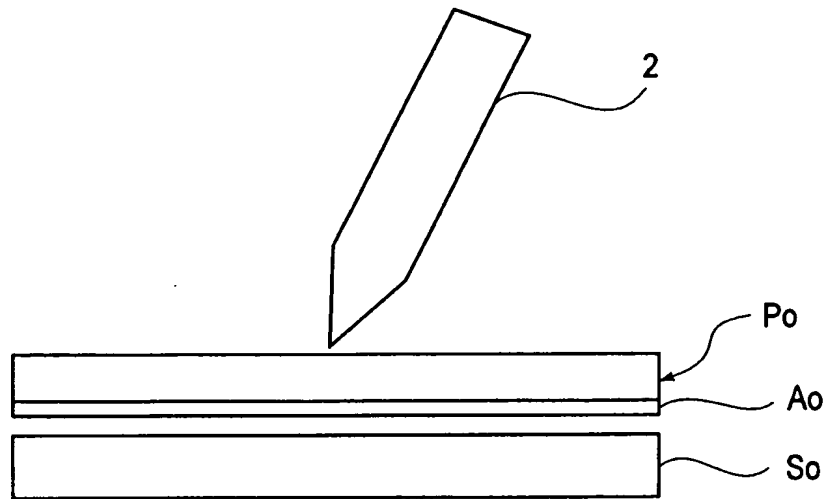


FIG. 9

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10/11

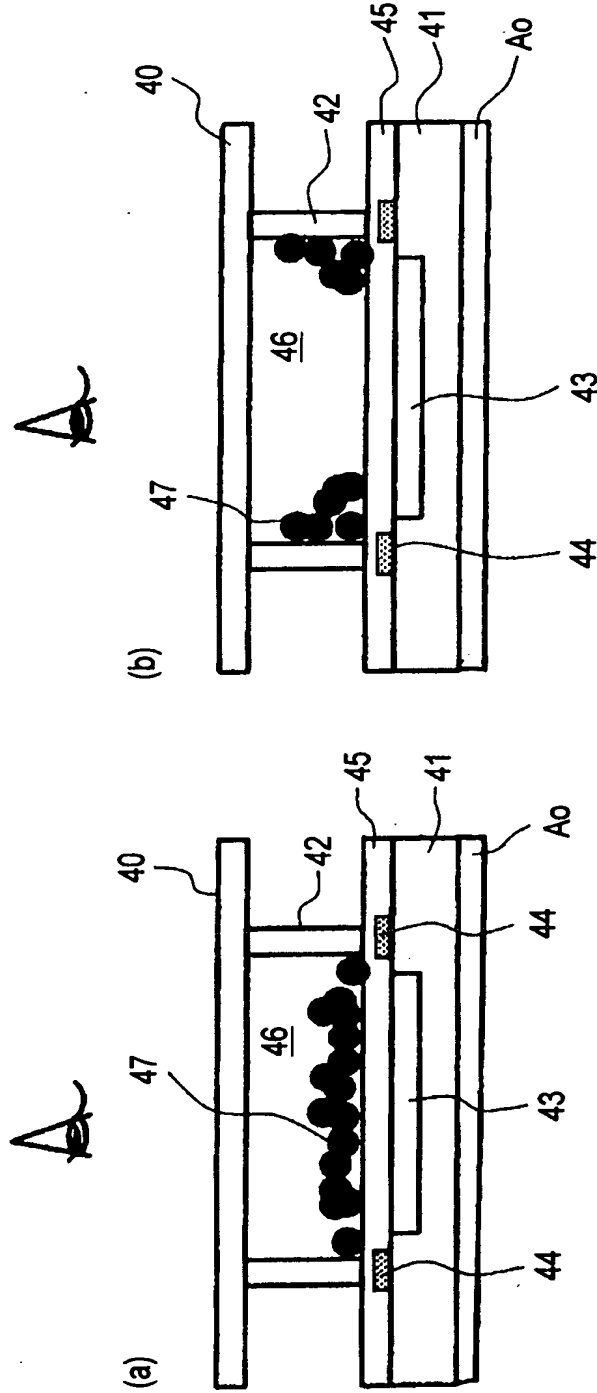
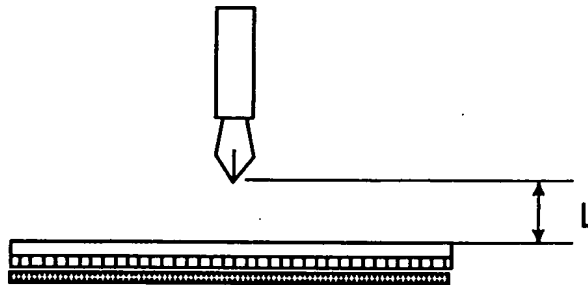


FIG.10

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11/11

(a)



(b)

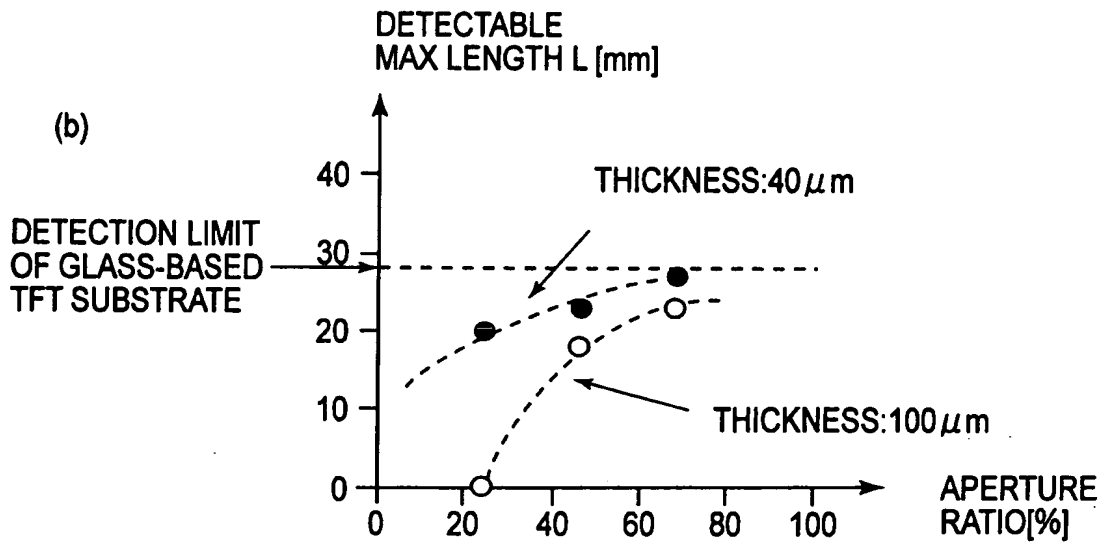


FIG.11